



**HOME BUILDERS & REMODELERS ASSOCIATION
OF CONNECTICUT, INC.**

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*Your Home
Is Our
Business*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
Public Hearing
Testimony
February 22, 2023**

To: Chairmen Rep. Horn, Sen. Fonfara, Ranking Members Rep. Cheeseman, Sen. Martin and distinguished Members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee

From: Jim Perras, CEO

Regarding: Proposed S.B. No. 5424: An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Educational Access and Opportunity Scholarship Donations.

The Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Connecticut (HBRA-CT) is a professional trade association with almost nine hundred business members statewide, employing tens of thousands of Connecticut residents. Our association of small businesses consists of residential and commercial builders, land developers, remodelers, general contractors, subcontractors, suppliers and those businesses and professionals that provide services to our diverse industry. We build between 70% to 80% of all new homes and apartments in Connecticut each year and engage in countless home remodeling projects.

The HBRA-CT urges the passage of Proposed H.B. No. 5424: An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Educational Access and Opportunity Scholarship Donations. Connecticut has one of the oldest residential construction workforces in the country, in part, because younger people are trending away from careers in construction. This shortage of skilled labor has had a significant impact on the industry's ability to build affordably, which in turn has contributed to the housing attainability issues facing our state. Our trade association is affiliated with a number of 501c3 non-profits all of which have within their missions' workforce development and fundraising for scholarships to provide individuals with trade skills education. If passed, HB 5424 would incentivize donors to contribute to these non-profits exposing more people to the trades and providing relief to severe residential construction worker force shortage we are currently experiencing.

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 5424.

